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BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1960

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.
Assistant School Medical Officer.

December, 1961.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1960.

The estimated mid-year population of the Urban District increased by 50 during the year.

There was also an appreciable fall in the total number of deaths, the number being 79 compared with 90 in 1959, 102 in 1958 and 113 in 1957. This is very satisfactory, since in addition to the steady decline in deaths during the past four years, the population has been slightly increasing. The standardised death-rate after correction for age and sex distribution compares very favourably with that for England and Wales, and is indeed slightly below the figure for the country as a whole. The total of deaths of infants under one year remained at 2, compared with 2 in the previous year, 5 in 1953 and 8 in 1957.

The incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) was extremely low, only 7 cases being notified throughout the year. There were again no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

Local Industries - These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 679 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply

A good and plentiful supply of water was available for the town's domestic and other requirements during the year due to the Council being able to augment the town's spring supply during drought periods or in an emergency from The Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board's mains through a metered connection between the mains agreed and fixed last year. A reasonable pressure has been maintained in the higher areas of the town with the combined supplies.

The yield from the Council's springs fell to a low level in July and August with a corresponding fall in the level at the reservoir. During these periods, the reservoir level was built up to a safe margin by taking increased quantities of metered water from The Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board.

In accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's latest circular regarding the regrouping of water undertakings, the Council's representatives, at a meeting held in June last year with The Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board, expressed their willingness to negotiate with a view to the amalgamation of the Council's water undertaking with the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board undertaking. A further communication is expected from The Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board in this matter.

Refuse Tip

Tipping has been concentrated as far as possible to an area of land, approximately three quarters of an acre, in the south west corner of the tip which lies relatively near to the highway. The filling is well advanced and when completed, the area will be covered with a layer of soil and resceded.

This will complete the filling of all areas of the tip lying near to the highway, and all future tipping will proceed in a north westerly direction well removed from the highway.

Land to the west of the tipping face not yet required for tipping purposes is as usual let annually for grazing.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

New soil and surface water sewers have been extended in the Flatts Estate area for private housing and in Bridgegate for redevelopment of that area.

The acceptance in principle of the sewage from the village of Startforth in Startforth Rural District and the sewage drainage from houses in Darlington Road in the Barnard Castle Rural District has been agreed. A final decision from the Startforth Rural District Council is awaited.

A report on the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works, prepared by the Council's Engineers, in which provision is made for the town's estimated future requirements, and the sewage from Startforth Village and Darlington Road houses is under consideration.

Closet Accommodation

Four dry closets were in use in the area at the end of the year. All other properties are on the water carriage system.

Housing

The statutory return of unfit houses which the Council submitted to the Minister under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 covering the Council's programme for five years from 1st August, 1955 is as follows:-

Estimate of number of houses in the area suitable for action under Sections 44 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957	84
Position of Council's Slum Clearance Programme at 31.12.60	
No. in Confirmed Clearance Areas	60
Houses subject to Demolition Orders	8
Closing Order made since the report	12
No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Slum Clearance schemes or other formal action	18
No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	10
No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed	16

Improvement Grants - Housing Acts 1949 and 1959

Applications submitted to Local Authority	9
Applications refused by Local Authority	Nil
Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	55
Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme	46

New Dwellings

Sixteen two bedroom flats in Thorngate Wynd and eight 3 bedroom houses in Bridgegate were completed by The North Eastern Housing Association Ltd. on behalf of the Council. Six privately built houses were completed and occupied during the year.

Future Development by the Council

The remainder of the first contract for the redevelopment of Bridgegate, six two bedroom flats with six three bedroom maisonettes above, were in an advanced state of construction at the end of the year.

The second contract for twelve three bedroom dwellings in the area had been commenced and plans were forward for the infilling with two dwellings on the site 43 and 45, The Bank.

The number of applications on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 162 compared with a figure of 138 at the end of 1959.

Provision of Houses by Local Authority

	Situation	No. of Bedrooms				
		1	2	3	4	Total
Pre 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25 #
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre 1939	14	35	20	10	79
Post 1939	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	6 Flats	6 Flats	13	-	39
	Green Lane Site North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8 Flats	68 8 Flats	80	12	176
	The Bank North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	-	2	1	3
	Thorngate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	1	-	1	-	2
	Bridgegate Redevelopment North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	16	12	-	28
	Total Post 1939	23	132	230	31	416
	GRAND TOTAL	37	167	250	41	495

Comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Confirmed Clearance Areas

3 dwellings in Clearance Areas made before 1939 were still standing on 31st December, 1960. Two in Grey Lane are to be demolished by the Council.

Post War Clearance Areas position at 31st December, 1960.

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Houses in occupation	No. demolished	No. vacant
1	8.8.57	4	-	-	4	-
2	-do-	5	-	-	5	-
3	-do-	16	-	-	16	-
4	-do-	3	-	-	3	-
5	-do-	8	-	-	8	-
6	13.8.57	4	-	-	1	3
7	8.8.57	3	-	-	-	3
9	5.7.57	3	-	-	2	1
10	8.8.57	4	2	1	1	2
TOTALS		50	2	1	40	9

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	14	6	1
Factories not included in above which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	6	-
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	4	4	1
TOTALS	78	16	2

The number of outworkers remains at six. All outworkers premises are satisfactory.

Tents and Caravans

Three licences to station individual caravans were issued during the year.

There are two camping grounds in the area.

The owner of Field O.S. No. 2 near Red Well Inn, Harmire Road, has a yearly licence to station not more than 20 purpose made trailer caravans on the site.

The camping ground on Field O.S. No. 58 near Prospect Place is licensed without restriction.

The management and layout of the sites leave a lot to be desired.

Rodent Control

The part-time rodent operative treated the sewers, the Council and private properties during the year without meeting anything needing special comment.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream

No ice cream is manufactured in the area and all of the thirty five retailers sell pre-packed ice cream.

Milk

Eight retailers were licensed to sell Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested and Sterilized Milk in the Council's area. From the 1st January, 1961, the licensing authority will be the Durham County Council.

Meat

Four slaughterhouses were licensed during the year and work necessary under the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 was considered by the Council. Their report on the premises resulted in the Appointed Day under the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, for this area being fixed as the 1st April, 1962.

All four of the owners of these slaughterhouses have indicated their intention of altering their premises to comply with the new regulations.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in the year
ending 31st December, 1960.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	786	8	45	2760	922
Number inspected	786	8	45	2750	922
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> <u>and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	1	3	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	141	4	2	117	212
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	17.94	50.0	6.66	4.36	23.0
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	9
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.97
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1960
compiled from the Bowes Museum

<u>1960</u>	<u>Ins.</u>
January	4.93
February	3.04
March	2.79
April	1.69
May	2.35
June	.57
July	4.16
August	2.87
September	2.90
October	6.74
November	4.13
December	3.46
	<u>39.63</u>
Average	
5 years 1956 - 1960	32.88 ins.
	39.63 1960
	24.89 1959
	36.06 1958
	30.67 1957
	33.14 1956

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1960)	5,260
Number of inhabited houses	1,668
Rateable value	£ 53,178
Sum represented by a penny rate (Financial year ended 31.3.60)	£198. 2. 10.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live-Births</u>	Legitimate)	99	92	45	47
	Illegitimate)		7	2	5

Crude Birth-rate 18.8 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 17.9 per 1,000 home population.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales 17.1 per 1,000 home population.

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate)	3	2	1	1
	Illegitimate)		1	1	-

Still Birth-Rate per 1,000 home population 0.57.

Still Birth-Rate for previous year 0.38

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Deaths</u>			79	36	43

Crude Death-Rate 15.0 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 11.1 " " " "

For England and Wales 11.5 " " " "

<u>Deaths of Infants under one year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-

<u>Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Death-Rate of Infants under One Year

All Infants (per 1,000 live births)	20
For previous year	20

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer (all types)	3	4	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	9	15
Coronary disease, angina	6	2	8
Other heart disease	8	17	25
Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	4	-	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	8	11
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
	<u>36</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>79</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Only seven cases of infectious or notifiable disease were notified during the year, of which three were measles and two whooping cough. There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria.

Poliomyelitis vaccination scheme.

During the year vaccination continued to be available to all persons in the priority groups already listed by the Minister of Health, and in addition the Minister extended the scheme to include all persons aged up to 40 years. The greater proportion of children and other persons are now vaccinated by the private practitioners at their own surgeries, but facilities are still available for the injections to be given at Welfare or School Clinics if the parents desire it. In the case of children of school age and under, the response continues to be satisfactory but there is still room for a great deal of improvement in the higher age groups. The value of the scheme seems to have been shown however by the fact that the incidence of poliomyelitis was lower throughout the country during the year. I give below a return of the different categories of persons who were vaccinated during the year.

Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme

Number vaccinated with two injections between 1st January and 31st December, 1960:-

Children born in years 1943 to 1960	693
Young persons born in years 1933 - 1942	265
Persons born before 1933 who have not passed their 40th birthday	310
Others	<u>11</u>
Total	<u>1,279</u>

The total number of persons who had received three injections at the 31st December, 1960, since the inception of the scheme is 4,756.

B. C. G. VACCINATION.

During the year the County Council approved a scheme for the vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine of certain categories of schoolchildren. This vaccine has been used for some years as a preventative against tuberculosis and it has been found that a high proportion of those vaccinated receive protection for a period of at least 5 years. The procedure is to administer a preliminary skin test and those found to be negative to the test are then inoculated.

The children eligible for vaccination are those aged 13 years and upwards who are still at school and may include whole school classes even though a few of the children are under the age of thirteen years.

Vaccinations started during the summer term in the schools situated in the Urban District, and it is hoped to complete the first round of schools in the whole area during the early months of the present year. Response to the scheme by parents of those children eligible for vaccination has been good, though in some schools there were a certain number of absentees amongst those who had agreed to be vaccinated, either through illness, faint heartedness or some other cause.

I append below details of tests and vaccinations carried out during the year.

1	2	3		4 ϕ		5 ϕ		6
School	Consents	Given * Skin Tests		Positive Reactors		Negative Reactors Given B.C.G.		No. absent at time of readings
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Barnard Castle Grammar Technical	80	77	96	11	15	62	84	4
Barnard Castle Modern School	134	118	88	23	20	89	79	6
Barnard Castle Boys Public School	219	219	100	55	24	160	74	2
TOTALS	433	414		89		311		12

* = percentage of those who consented.

ϕ = percentage of those given skin tests
and subsequently read.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis not confirmed	Total Cases
Measles	3	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	1
Dysentery	1	-	-	1

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	2	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	117	4	37	105	122	-	6	3
Whooping Cough	23	-	3	44	19	2	14	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Ac. Primary Pneumonia	3	1	2	2	6	4	7	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children aged under 15 who received a primary course of diphtheria combined with whooping cough immunisation amounted to 63 (compared with 66 in 1959).

Immunisation against diphtheria or whooping cough is available at Infant Welfare Clinics or children can be taken to their own doctors.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year
ended 31st December, 1960.

<u>Age at date of final injection</u>		<u>Total under 15</u>
0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1960

- - -

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year

11

<u>Age at date of final injection</u>		<u>Total under 15</u>
0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough

61 2 63

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year

13

Tuberculosis

Four new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, the patients being females aged 45, 17, 35 and 40 respectively.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Staff - The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer.

The Surveyor and Public Health Inspector are whole-time Officers.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town, and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals - There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or Children, in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Negotiations are at the present time taking place between the Trustees of the Home and the Regional Hospital Board with a view to the Home being taken over by the Hospital Board for use under the National Health Service.

Ambulance Facilities - Barnard Castle urban and rural districts are served by two ambulance depots, two ambulances and four driver-attendants.

Summary of work done by vehicles stationed in the urban and rural districts

<u>Journeys</u>	<u>Stretcher cases</u>	<u>Sitting cases</u>	<u>Total cases</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
1,185	609	4,741	5,350	67,706

In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the above information.

Home Nursing - Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, 1954, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife service.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area by two District Nurse Midwives resident in the town.

Miss L. H. Dodd,
4, Montgomery Road,
Barnard Castle.

Telephone not yet
transferred.

Mrs. M. L. Morton,
3, Harmire Road,
Barnard Castle.

Telephone No.
Barnard Castle 3156.

Midwifery Service

No. of Midwifery and Maternity Cases	47
No. of Hospital patients discharged before the 14th day	14

Home Nursing Service

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Medical	78	1,420
Surgical	19	411
Tuberculosis	5	263
Total	102	2,094

No. of cases included in the above
total who were 65 yrs. of age or over 80 1,697

No. of cases included in the above
total who were under 5 yrs. of age 1 6

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress -
Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks
at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration
of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee - The Committee, of which three members of the
Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County
Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White, and to Mr. E. Dixon,
Public Health Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

